A

DECLARATION

BY THE

KINGS MAJESTY

To His Subjects of the Kingdomes of

SCOTLAND, ENGLAND, and IRELAND.

EDINBURGH,

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BY THE KING.

HIS MAJESTY taking in consideration that mercifull dispensation of Divine providence, by which he hath been recovered out of the snare of evill counsel, and having attained so full perswasion and confidence of the loyaltie of his People in *Scotland*, with whom he hath too long stood at a distance, and of the righteousnes of their Cause, as to joyn in one Covenant with them, and to cast himself and his interests wholly upon God, and in all matters Civil to follow the advice of his Parliament, and such as shall be intrusted by them; and in all matters Ecclesiastick, the advice of the Generall Assembly and their Commissioners: And being sensible of his duty to God, and desirous to approve himself to the consciences of all his good Subjects, and to stop the mouths of his and their enemies and traducers, doth in reference to his former deportments, and as to his resolutions for the future, Declare as followes.

Though his Majesty as a dutifull Son be obliged to honour the memory of his Royall Father, and have in estimation the Person of his Mother, yet doth he desire to be deeply humbled and afflicted in spirit before God, because of his Fathers hearkning to, and following evil counsels, and his opposition to the Work of Reformation, and to the Solemn League and Covenant, by which so much of the blood of the Lords People hath been shed in those Kingdomes; And for the Idolatry of his Mother, the tolleration whereof in the Kings House, as it was matter of great stumbling to all the Protestant Churches, so could it not but be a high provocation against him, who is a jealous God, visiting the sins of the fathers upon the children.

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And albeit his Majesty might extenuate his former carriage and actions in following of the advice, and walking in the way of those whoare opposite to the Covenant, and to the Work of God, & might excuse his delaying to give satisfaction to the just & necessary desires of the Kirk and Kingdom of *Scotland*, from his education, & age, & evill counsell and company, and from the strange and insolent proceedings of Sectaries against his Royall Father, and in reference to Religion and the ancient Government of the Kingdom of *England*, to which he hath the undoubted Right of Succession; Yet knowing that he hath to do with GOD, He doth ingenuously acknowledge all his own sins, and all the sins of his Fathers House, craving pardon, and hoping for mercy and reconciliation through the blood of Jesus Christ. And as he doth value the constant addresses that were made by his People to the Throne of Grace on his behalf, when he stood in opposition to the Work of God, as a singular Testimony of long-suffering patience and mercy upon the Lords part, and loyaltie upon theirs; So doth He hope, and shall take it as one of the greatest tokens of their love and affection to him and to his Government, that they will continue in prayer and supplication to God for him, that the Lord who spared and preserved him to this day, notwithstanding of all his own guiltinesse, may be at peace with him, and give him to fear the Lord his God, and to serve him with a perfect heart, and with a willing mind all the dayes of his life.

And his Majesty having upon full perswasion of the justice and equity of all the heads and Articles thereof, now Sworn and Subscribed the Nationall Covenant of the Kingdom of *Scotland*, and the Solemn League and Covenant of the three Kingdoms of *Scotland*, *England* and *Ireland*, doth Declare that he hath not Sworn and subscribed these Covenants, and entred into the Oath of GOD with his people, upon any sinister intention and crooked designe for attaining his own ends, but so far as humane weaknes will permit in the truth and sincerity of his heart, and that he is firmly resolved in the Lords

strength to adhere thereto, and to prosecute to the utmost of his power all the ends thereof, in his Station and Calling, really, constantly and sincerely all the dayes of his life: In order to which he doth in the first place Profess and Declare that he will have no enemies, but the enemies of the Covenant, and that he will have no friends but the friends of the Covenant. And therefore as he doth now detest and abhor all Popery, Superstition and Idolatry, together with Prelacy and all Errors, Heresie, Schism and Profanesse, and resolves not to Tolerate, much lesse allow any of these in any part of his Majesties Dominions, but to oppose himself thereto, and to endeavour the extirpation thereof to the utmost of his power; So doth he as a Christian Exhort, and as a King Require that all such of his Subjects who have stood in opposition to the Solemn League and Covenant and Work of Reformation, upon a pretence of Kingly interest, or any other pretext whatsoever, to lay down their enmity against the Cause and people of God, and to cease to prefer the interest of man to the interest of God, which hath been one of those things that hath occasioned many troubles and calamities in these Kingdoms, and being insisted into, will be so far from establishing of the Kings Throne, that it will prove an Idol of jealousie to provoke unto wrath him who is KING of Kings, and LORD of Lords: The King shall alwayes esteem them best servants, and most Loyal Subjects, who serve him and seek his greatnesse in a right line of subordination unto God, giving unto GOD the things that are GOD's, and unto *Cesar* the things that are *Cesars*, And resolveth not to love, or countenance any, who have so little Conscience and piety, as to follow his interest with a prejudice to the Gospel and the Kingdom of *Jesus Christ*, which he looks not upon as a duty, but as flattery, and driving of self-designs, under a pretence of maintaining Royal Authority and greatnesse.

II. His Majesty being convinced in conscience, of the exceeding great sinfulnesse and unlawfulnesse, of that Treaty and

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peace made with the bloody *Irish* Rebels, who treacherously shed the blood of so many of his faithfull and Loyall Subjects in *Ireland*, and of allowing unto them the liberty of the Popish Religion; for the which he doth from his heart desire to be deeply humbled before the Lord; And likewise considering how many breaches have been upon thier part, Doth Declare the same to be void, And that his Majesty is absolved therefrom; being truly sorry that he should have sought unto so unlawfull help for restoring of him to his Throne, and resolving for the time to come, rather to choose affliction then sin.

III. As his Majesty did in the late Treaty with his people in this Kingdom, agree to recall and annull all Commissions against any of his Subjects, who did adhere to the Covenant, and Monarchicall Government in any of his Kingdoms; so doth he now Declare that by Commissionating of some persons by Sea, against the people of *England*, he did not intend dammage, or injury to his oppreſt and harmlesse Subjects in that Kingdom, who follow their trade of Merchandize in their lawfull callings, but only the opposing and suppressing of those who had usurped the Government, and not only bar him from his just right, but also exercise an arbitrary power over his people, in those things which concern their persons, consciences and Estates: And as since his coming into *Scotland*, he hath given no Commissions against any of his Subjects in *England* or *Ireland*, so he doth hereby Assure and Declare, that he will give none to their prejudice or dammage, and what ever shall be the wrongs of these usurpers, that he will be so far from avenging these upon any who are free thereof, by interrupting and stopping the liberty of trade and Merchandize or otherwise, that he will seek their good, and to the utmost imploy his Royall power, that they may be protected and defended against the unjust violence of all men whatsoever. And albeit his Majesty desireth to construct well of the intentions of those (in referrence to his Majesty) who have been active in Counsell or Arms against the Covenant; Yet being convinced that it doth conduce for the honour of God, the good of his Cause, and his own honour and happines, and for the peace and safety of these Kingdoms, that such be not imployed in places of power and trust, He doth Declare, that he will not imploy, nor give Commissions to any such, untill they have not only taken or renewed the Covenant, but also have given sufficient evidences of their integrity, carriage, and affection to the work of Reformation, and shall be Declared capable of trust by the Parliament of either Kingdom *respective*: And his Majesty upon the same grounds, doth hereby Recall all Commissions given to any such persons; conceiving all such persons will so much

render a good understanding betwixt him and his Subjects, and the setling and preserving a firm peace in these Kingdoms, that they will not grudge nor repine at his Majesties resolutions and proceedings herein, much lesse upon discontent act any thing in a divided way unto the raising of new troubles; especially since upon their pious and good deportment, there is a regress left unto them in manner above expressed.

And as his Majesty hath given satisfaction to the just and necessary desires of the Kirk and Kingdom of *Scotland*, So doth he hereby Assure and Declare that he is no lesse willing and desirous to give satisfaction to the just and necessary desires of his good subjects in *England* and *Ireland*; and in token thereof, if the Houses of Parliament of *England* sitting in freedom shall think fit to present unto him, the Propositions of Peace, agreed upon by both Kingdoms, he will not only accord to the same, and such alterations thereanent, as the Houses of Parliament in regard of the constitution of affairs, and the good of his Majesty and his Kingdoms shall judge necessary, but do what is further necessary, for prosecuting the ends of the Solemn League and Covenant, especially in those things which concern the Reformation of the Church of *England* in Doctrine, Worship, Discipline, and Government; that not only the Directory of Worship, the Confession of Faith and Catechisme, but also the Propositions and Directory for Church-Government Accorded upon by the Synod of Divines at *Westminster* may be setled, and that the Church of *England* may enjoy the full liberty and freedom of all Assemblies and power of Kirk Censures, and of all the Ordinances of *Jesus Christ*, according to the Rule of His own Word, and that whatsoever is commanded by the GOD of Heaven, may be diligently done for the House of the GOD of Heaven. And what ever heretofore hath been the suggestions of some to him, to render his Majesty jealous of his Parliament and of the servants of God; Yet as he hath Declared, that in *Scotland* he will hearken to their Counsell, and follow their advice in those things that concern that Kingdom and Kirk; So doth he also Declare his firm resolution to manage the Government of the Kingdom of *England*, by the advice of his Parliament, consisting of an House of Lords, and of an House of Commons there, and in those things that concern Religion to prefer the counsels of the Ministers of the Gospel, to all other Counsels whatsoever; And that all the World may see how much he tenders the safety of his people, and how precious their blood is in his sight, and how desirous he is to recover his Crown and Government in *England* by peaceable means, as he doth esteem the service of those who first engaged in the Covenant, and have since that time faithfully followed the

ends thereof, to be duty to GOD, and Loyalty to him, so is he willing in regard of others, who have been involved in these late Commotions in *England* against Religion and Government, to passe an Act of Oblivion, Excepting only some few in that Nation, who have been chief obstructers of the Work of Reformation, and chief Authours of the Change of the Government, and of the Murther of his Royall Father; Provided, that these who are to have the benefit of this Act lay down Arms, and return to the Obedience of their Lawfull Soveraign.

The Committee of Estates of the Kingdom, and Generall Assembly of the Kirk of *Scotland*, having Declared so fully in what concerns the Sectaries, and the present designes, resolutions, and actings of their Army against the Kingdom of *Scotland*, and the same Commitee and Assembly having sufficiently laid open publick dangers and duties both upon the right hand, and upon the left; It is not needfull for his Majesty to adde any thing thereunto, except that in those things he doth Commend and approve them, and that he resolves to live and die with them and his Loyal Subjects, in prosecution of the ends of the Covenant.

And whereas that prevailing Party in *England* after all their strange usurpations and insolent actings in that Land, do not onely keep his Majesty from the Government of that Kingdom by force of Arms, but also have now invaded the Kingdom of *Scotland*, who have deserved better things at their hands, and against whom they have no just quarrell; His Majesty doth therfore desire and expect, that all his good Subjects in *England*, who are and resolve to be faithfull to GOD, and to their King, according to the Covenant, will lay hold upon such an opportunity, and use their utmost endeavours to promove the Covenant and all the ends thereof, and to recover and reestablish the ancient Government of the Kingdome of *England*, (under which for many Generations it did flourish in Peace and Plenty at home, and in reputation abroad) and priviledges of the Parliament, and native and just liberty of the People. His Majesty desires to assure himself, that there doth remain in these so much confidence of their duty to Religion, their King & Countrey, and so many sparkles of the ancient *English* valor, which shined so eminently in their noble ancestors, as wil put them on to bestir themselves for breaking the yoke of those mens oppressions from off their necks. Shall men of conscience and honour, set Religion, Liberties, and Government at so low a rate, as not rather to undergo any hazard, before they be thus deprived of them? Will not all generous men count a dry death more tollerable, then to live in servitude all their dayes? and wil not posterity blame those who dare attempt nothing for themselves, and for their children, in so good a Cause, in

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